

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10920

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: PARTY'S GENERAL OFFICE REMEMBERS MAO

SUMMARY: AN ARTICLE BY THE PARTY'S GENERAL OFFICE
COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF MAO'S DEATH PROVIDES
SOME INSIGHTS INTO THE FUNCTIONS AND HISTORY OF THE GENERAL
OFFICE AND BODYGUARD UNIT 8341. THE ARTICLE'S DEFENSE OF
MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION POLICIES CONTRASTS WITH OTHER
RECENT ARTICLES WHICH HAVE TENDED TO IGNORE THAT PERIOD.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE PARTY'S GENERAL OFFICE HAS COMMEMORATED THE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF MAO'S DEATH IN A SEPTEMBER 8 "PEOPLE'S
DAILY" ARTICLE ENTITLED "FOREVER BEAR CHAIRMAN MAO'S
TEACHINGS IN MIND AND PERSEVERE IN CONTINUING THE REVOLUTION
UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT." THE
ARTICLE STATES THAT "THE GENERAL OFFICE HAD THE
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DUTY TO GUARD CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE PARTY CENTRAL
COMMITTEE, HANDLE TOP SECRETS OF THE PARTY AND OTHER
IMPORTANT TASKS". THE ARTICLE LINKS THE 8341
PALACE GUARD UNIT AND THE GENERAL OFFICE, BUT
POLITBURO MEMBER WANG TUNG-HSING, WHO IS BELIEVED
TO HEAD BOTH THE GENERAL OFFICE AND THE UNIT, IS
NEVER MENTIONED BY NAME.

2. THE ARTICLE ASSERTS FOR THE FIRST TIME WE ARE AWARE THAT MAO ALSO ASSIGNED THE GENERAL OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE AND PROPAGANDA RESPONSIBILITIES. BODYGUARDS WERE SELECTED FROM ALL OF CHINA'S PREFECTURES AND INSTRUCTED BY MAO TO REPORT TO HIM IN WRITING ON CONDITIONS IN THEIR NATIVE AREAS. TELLING THEM THEY WERE A LINK BETWEEN HIM AND THE PEASANT MASSES, MAO DIRECTED THE BODYGUARDS TO GIVE HIM THEIR OPINION OF THE WORK OF "FUNCTIONARIES" IN THEIR HOME TOWNS. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER UNIT 8341 CONTINUES TO PERFORM THIS FUNCTION FOR CHAIRMAN HUA, BUT IF IT DOES, THAT SUGGESTS THAT ONE OF WANG TUNG-HSING'S MAJOR ROLES IS AS CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FOR THE REGIME.

3. MUCH OF THE ARTICLE'S HISTORICAL ACCOUNT SEEMS DESIGNED TO PRESENT A FATHERLY IMAGE OF CHAIRMAN MAO, WHO WAS CONCERNED WITH THE EDUCATION AND WELFARE OF THE FORMER PEASANTS AND WORKERS WHO MADE UP THE GUARD UNIT. THE ARTICLE ALSO SERVES TO REVIEW THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE GENERAL OFFICE IN THWARTING THE ZANTI "PARTY" PLOTS OF LIU SHAO-CHI, LIN PIAO AND THE "GANG OF FOUR." THE "GANG" ALLEGEDLY TRIED INDEPENDENTLY TO CIRCULATE THEIR OWN DOCUMENTS, BUT ABIDING BY MAO'S INSTRUCTIONS THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE FIRST MUST SEE ALL CORRESPONDENCE SENT OUT IN THE NAME OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE GENERAL OFFICE REPORTED THE GANG'S" INTENTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, WHO CENSURED THE CULPRITS. AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT WHEN THE "GANG" PLANNED TO LAUNCH ITS COUP, THE 8341 UNIT, UNDER THE DIRECT COMMAND OF CHAIRMAN HUA AND VICE CHAIRMAN YEH", DEALT A CRUSHING BLOW TO THE "GANG."

4. THE GENERAL OFFICE PIECE GOES INTO GREATER DETAIL THAN OTHER RECENT ARTICLES IN DEFENDING MAO'S ROLE DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION (CR). SPECIFIC CR POLICIES ("THE THREE SUPPORTS AND TWO MILITARIES", THE MAY 7TH DIRECTIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY MASS ORGANIZATIONS) ARE PRAISED. THE GENERAL OFFICE EVEN ASSERTS THAT DURING THE CR IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNITING "OVER 95 PER CENT OF THE CADRES AND MASSES", THEREBY OVERCOMING ATTEMPTS BY THE "GANG OF FOUR" TO SABOTAGE THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS BY CREATING FACTIONALISM. THE ARTICLE SEEMS TO MAKE A POINT OF VILIFYING THE CR'S MAIN VILLAIN, LIU SHAO-CHI, WHO IS ATTACKED BY NAME SEVEN TIMES.

5. THE GENERAL OFFICE'S REVIEW OF THE CR YEARS
PROBABLY IS IN PART INTENDED TO PRESERVE INTACT MAO'S
IMAGE NOW THAT MANY CR POLICIES ARE BEING REVISED
AND CR FIGURES ARE BEING PURGED. THE SEVERE TREATMENT
GIVEN TO LIU MAY BE INTENDED TO DRAW A CLEAR DIS-
TINCTION BETWEEN PEOPLE (E.G. TENG HSIAO-PING) AND POLICIES
THAT HAVE BEEN REHABILITATED AND THOSE THAT REMAIN IN
IGNOMINY.

6. BUT WE ALSO DETECT IN THIS ARTICLE EVIDENCE OF A
CONTINUING DEBATE OVER THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. THE
GENERAL OFFICE'S PRAISE FOR SOME OF THE CR'S "NEW-BORN
THINGS" CONTRASTS WITH THE EMPHASIS IN MOST RECENT
ARTICLES AND SPEECHES ON HOW THE "GANG" USED THE "NEW-
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BORN THINGS" TO SABOTAGE ORDER AND PRODUCTION. THE
GENERAL OFFICE ARTICLE APPEARS VERY DIFFERENT IN TONE
FROM THE RECENT PIECE BY THE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
(PEKING DOMESTIC SEPTEMBER 5), WHICH VIRTUALLY IGNORED THE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION WHILE CONCENTRATING ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE
17 YEARS IMMEDIATELY AFTER LIBERATION.

7. ALSO INTRIGUING IS THE ARTICLE'S CLAIM THAT
ALTHOUGH MAO'S HEALTH WAS DETERIORATING IN HIS FINAL
MONTHS, "HE STILL CONCERNED HIMSELF WITH THE MAJOR
EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AT HOME AND ABROAD", AND
LISTENED TO REPORTS UP UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE HIS
DEATH. THIS ACCOUNT SEEMS TO CONTRADICT ASSERTIONS
THAT THE "GANG" TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MAO'S POOR HEALTH
TO FEED HIM FALSE REPORTS ABOUT TENG HSIAO-PING.
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